

to the right forearm. Both wing membranes have large irregular patches of unpigmented areas (Fig. 1).

Apparently this is the first record of piebaldism in the genus *Rousettus*.

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VIRUS RESEARCH CENTRE,
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3. NEW METHODS OF COLLECTION OF BATS

Methods of collection of species of bats living in small colonies in obscure and inaccessible places for a thorough survey do not appear to be satisfactory because they depend largely on chance. During a bat survey of Jabalpur city and environs, a method for collection of such species was developed and applied and resulted in the collection of twenty species which, except three rare and rather poorly known forms, included practically all the species so far recorded from Central India. The method is described below:—

The method consists in moving about at dusk and dawn when the bats leave or enter their roosts respectively. If a specimen is seen during these hours, it is certain that it cannot be far away from the roost. It is necessary to note the direction from which it comes out at dusk or in which it disappears at dawn. The next step is to wait at a place a bit farther up the direction from which it has been seen coming out or in which it has disappeared. This is because there is a general tendency among the species studied to follow a restricted path while leaving and entering the roost. After a few

attempts, generally from 1 to 3, the haunt of the specimen can be easily located. The location is facilitated by the fact that in most cases the forms under consideration live in colonies of varying number and they generally enter or leave their haunts one or two at a time so that the process of departure from and return to the haunt of the whole colony is spread over a considerable period depending upon the size of the colony. After the location of the haunt the specimens can be collected by various common methods depending upon the nature of the haunt. Two of these, however, need special mention.

(a) If the specimens are hidden in deep holes, they can be collected by tying a butterfly net around the haunt. Most of the specimens easily enter the net when they come out in the evening.

(b) If the haunt consists of crevice having one or a few openings, the openings except one are blocked with cotton or other material and cigarette smoke is blown into the hole for a few minutes till the bats come out. This method can be used for collection during any time of the day.

Only a few individuals should be collected and the rest left for observation in their natural habitat which they do not generally leave for sometime if the collection does not involve considerable disturbance.

The method has been found suitable especially for the following species: *Taphozous l. longimanus* Hardwicke, *T. k. kachhensis* Dobson, *Rhinolophus l. lepidus* Blyth, *Hipposideros f. fulvus* Gray, *H. galeritus brachyotus* Dobson, *Pipistrellus c. coromandra* Gray, *P. m. mimus* Wroughton, *P. ceylonicus indicus* Dobson, *Scotozous d. dormeri* Dobson and *Scotophilus h. heathi* Horsfield.

CENTRAL REGIONAL STATION,
ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,
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4. A NOTE ON BODY COLOUR AND BREEDING HABITS IN CAPTIVITY OF COMMON PALM CIVET (*PARADOXURUS* *HERMAPHRODITUS*) OF ORISSA

Prater (1971), has described the normal body colour of the common Palm Civet as 'black or blackish-brown civet with long coarse hair . . . , the new coat, before it is fully grown, generally